

November 17, 2005

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of the State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I am writing on behalf of the Delta Protection Commission (Commission) to express support for the efforts underway to secure funding for flood protection for the residents of California. The Commission supports your actions to facilitate effective flood control through measures that nurture cooperation among local stakeholders, regional partners, and state and federal entities, as an effective and efficient way to identify solutions to regional flood management issues.

Acknowledgement of the potential threat to Californians from flooding is evidenced by the efforts of U. S. Senator Feinstein and Representative Pombo, as well as state legislators, to secure federal funds needed to supplement state and local funding sources for northern California flood protection, including projects in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Your September 14, 2005 letter to Senator Feinstein and Representative Pombo clearly demonstrates the potential threat of flooding to California resources, and public health and safety; the self-help steps that have been taken by local and state entities to prioritize projects for efficient utilization of limited funds; and the necessity for federal/state partnership approaches to commit funds and to effectively implement flood control measures.

The inclusion of the Delta Project Priority Study and the Delta Risk Management Strategy (including the Levee Subventions Program), in addition to several regional proposals in the priority project list cited in your letter, demonstrates the administration's recognition of the agricultural, habitat, and recreational values of the Delta. These values are the core of the Delta Protection Act and the Commission's Land Use and resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta.

Your continued support for the preservation and enhancement of the resources of the Delta, and your commitment to address the issue of flood protection for the benefit of Delta stakeholders and the region, are appreciated and respected. As the primary forum for stakeholder input, the Commission, and its staff, is available to work with you in support of your efforts. Executive Director, Linda Fiack, can be contacted at (916) 776-2292 or at lindadpc@citlink.net.

Sincerely,

Mike McGowan
Chair

cc: The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
The Honorable Richard Pombo
The Honorable Daniel Lungren
The Honorable Ellen O. Tauscher
The Honorable Michael Machado
The Honorable Tom Torlakson
The Honorable Guy Houston
The Honorable Barbara Matthews
The Honorable Alan Nakanishi
The Honorable Lois Wolk
The Honorable Joseph Canciamilla
Mike Chrisman, Secretary, Resources Agency
Karen Scarborough, Undersecretary, Resources Agency



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

September 14, 2005

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Pombo
U. S. House of Representatives
2411 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein and Representative Pombo:

We appreciate your interest and support for timely and necessary improvements to California's extensive levee system. I am confident that we all agree that the flood catastrophe triggered by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans and other portions of the Gulf Coast brings a sobering reminder of the staggering human and property toll that a major flood can bring. In California, the two most critical levee issues are associated with the federal project levees on the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries, together with the local levees in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Sacramento metropolitan area has the lowest level of flood protection for any large urban area in the nation. Other river cities such as Tacoma, Dallas, St. Louis, and Kansas City have 500-year flood protection. Even New Orleans had a 250-year level of flood protection. Sacramento only has about a 100-year level of protection, a woefully inadequate level for a major city and the capital of California.

In addition, there are over 700 miles of structurally questionable local levees protecting low lying areas in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. While primarily protecting agricultural areas and less populated rural communities, these levees also provide for the conveyance of drinking water to over two-thirds of all Californians (almost eight percent of the US population) and irrigate some of the most strategic and productive farmland in the nation. Future disaster scenarios predict multiple levee failures in the Delta. Such an event would degrade water quality, allow salt water to quickly intrude into the Delta and lead to an extended interruption of state and federal water deliveries to the Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California. This would have a huge negative economic impact on both California and the nation.

STATE CAPITOL • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • (916) 445-2841

The state Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) district staff, and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) collectively have identified and prioritized the most critical levee programs for California that need federal funding to help avoid a flood event like Hurricane Katrina. These programs were prioritized by giving high priority to those programs that were closest to construction and those that addressed critical issues relating to public safety or California's economy. Some of these projects may already have partial federal funding scheduled in this year's budget, but are included here:

| <u>Priority Project</u> | <u>Proposed Federal Funding</u> |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. South Sacramento Streams Project | \$ 10,000,000 |
| 2. Sacramento River Bank Protection Project | \$ 20,000,000 |
| 3. American River Common Features Project | \$ 16,000,000 |
| 4. Folsom Dam Modifications and Raise | \$ 24,555,000 |
| 5. HR2828 Delta Project Priority Study - 180-day study | \$ 500,000 |
| 6. Delta Risk Management Strategy (with DWR) | \$ 3,000,000 |
| 7. Levee Systems Evaluations (multi-year program) | \$ 8,000,000 (first year) |
| 8. Natomas Reimbursement to SAFCA | \$ 4,500,000 |
| 9. Mid-Valley Area Levee Reconstruction Project | \$ 3,300,000 |
| 10. Yuba River Basin Project | \$ 1,200,000 |
| 11. Lower Cache Creek, Woodland | \$ 600,000 |
| 12. Middle Creek Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Rest. | \$ 1,000,000 |

The above projects are cost-shared with the state and local partners. We expect that both the state and its local partners will be able to provide their share of the funding for these projects.

There are also many other important Corps projects that require federal funding. Correcting deficiencies in California's levee system will demand a comprehensive and sustained effort. More specific authority for the Corps may be prudent and necessary. Flood protection needs in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta involve three immediate actions:

- A) The Sacramento River Bank Protection Project would construct improvements to the levees protecting urban areas along the Sacramento River in FY 06.
- B) The Delta Project Priority 180-day Study will provide Congress with a recommended plan to address critical levee stability reconstruction projects and priorities as directed by Congress in PL 108-361.

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C) The Delta Islands and Levees Feasibility study will develop the Delta Risk Management Strategy (DRMS) as also directed by PL 108-361. The DRMS is an expedited study that will address levee stability throughout the Delta and recommend risk reduction measures that would be part of a long-term solution.

Reinvigorating the federal government's commitment to emergency response planning for levee failures in the Delta and engaging in robust emergency response planning and pre-positioning of resources are also crucial. The Corps had only a limited response to the Jones Tract Levee failure in 2004, intended to prevent flooding of adjacent islands after Jones Tract had failed. The Corps did not participate in closing the breach or the pumping of flood waters from Jones Tract. The Corps commitment to assist closing breaches or reclaim islands in the Delta during a flood disaster is unclear. Congress needs to provide the Corps clear authority and funding that commits the Corps to swiftly respond to levee failures and in reclamation of islands in the aftermath of a flood disaster in the Delta. The Corps should fully participate with the state to create an emergency response plan that:

- Includes early warning of storm events
- Rapid reconnaissance of distress
- Pre-positioning of flood fight and rock materials
 - Planning for contracting for barges and barge-mounted equipment
 - Planning for flood-fight resources
 - A robust hydrodynamic model that helps analyze the effects of levee failures on water quality which would help prioritize repairs of multiple levee failures

California is poised to assist Congress with further briefings on the status of our flood preparedness challenges at your convenience. Thank you again for working on these critical levee issues for California.

Sincerely,



Arnold Schwarzenegger

cc: The California Congressional Delegation